



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 06530.0276

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Marc O. Schurr et al.)
)
Application No.: 09/957,451)
)
Filed: September 21, 2001)
)
For: METHODS AND DEVICES FOR)
FOLDING AND SECURING)
TISSUE)

Group Art Unit: 3731
Examiner: P. Roberts

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application

Copies of the listed documents are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that any or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the

documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

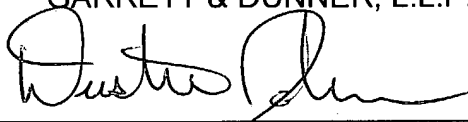
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

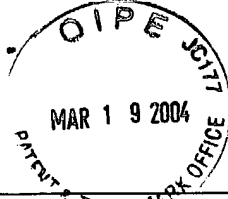
Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 19, 2004

By: 

Dustin T. Johnson
Reg. No. 47,684



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No. 06530.0276	Appln. No. 09/957,451
Applicant Marc O. Schurr et al.	
Filing Date September 21, 2001	Group: 3731

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	5,522,823	6/1996	Kuntz et al.			
	2002/0068935 A1	6/2002	Kortenbach et al.			
	2002/0068945 A1	6/2002	Sixto, Jr. et al.			
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	2002/0173786 A1	11/2002	Kortenbach et al.			
	2002/0198537 A1	12/2002	Smith et al.			
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	2003/0036679 A1	2/2003	Kortenbach et al.			
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	2003/0208209 A1	11/2003	Gambale et al.			
	2004/0024386 A1	2/2004	Deem et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No

MAR 19 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

OMB No. 0651-0011

Atty. Docket No.	06530.0276	Appln. No.	09/957,451
Applicant	Marc O. Schurr et al.		
Filing Date	September 21, 2001	Group:	3731

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OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce